

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the present amendments and following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 5, 9, 10, 13, 17, 18, 21, 24-26, 29, 32, 34, and 37 are pending; Claims 5, 9, 13, 17, 18, 21, 24, 20, 32, 34, and 37 are amended; and Claims 1-4, 6-8, 11, 12, 14-16, 19, 20, 22, 23, 27, 28, 30, 31, 33, 35, and 36 are canceled herewith. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added by this amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Tuttle (U.S. Pat. No. 6,429,044); Claims 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 11, 12, and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Tuttle in view of Qin et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,020,625); Claims 15, 16, 19, 20, and 22¹ were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Tuttle in view of Ohie (U.S. Pat. No. 6,580,164) and further in view of Qin; and Claims 23, 27, 28, 30, 31, 33, 35, and 36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Tuttle in view of Soga et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2000/0114726).

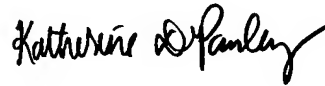
Claims 5, 9, 10, 13, 17, 18, 21, 24-26, 29, 32, 34, and 37 were indicated as allowable. Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter.

¹ While the Office Action at page 6 refers to Claim 16 twice, the rejection addresses Claim 22 as set forth at page 8 of the Office Action.

Because the present amendment cancels the rejected claims, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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